

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1-4. (canceled)

5. (previously presented) A method for maintaining and restoring hair color in an animal, comprising the steps of:

(a) adding an effective amount of a directly available amino acid tyrosine to an animal consumable product having indirectly available amino acid tyrosine therein to produce a supplemented consumable; and

(b) feeding an efficacious amount of said supplemented consumable to an animal selected from the group consisting of cats and dogs to maintain and restore hair color in the animal.

6. (currently amended) A method according to claim 5, wherein said effective amount of directly available tyrosine comprises at least ~~approximately~~ 0.05% by weight of the supplemented consumable.

7. (currently amended) A method according to claim 5, wherein said effective amount of directly available tyrosine comprises at least ~~approximately~~ 0.10% by weight of the supplemented consumable.

8. (previously presented) A method of promoting in an animal the synthesis of hair melanin comprising:

feeding an animal selected from the group consisting of a cat and a dog a nutritional diet comprising more than 0.50% by weight of tyrosine to promote in the animal the synthesis of hair melanin.

9. (previously presented) A method of Claim 8 wherein said nutritional diet comprises from about 1.65% by weight to about 2.40% by weight of tyrosine.

10. (previously presented) A method of Claim 8 wherein said nutritional diet comprises more than 0.80% by weight of indirectly available tyrosine.

11. (previously presented) A method of Claim 9 wherein said nutritional diet comprises more than 0.80% by weight of indirectly available tyrosine.

12. (previously presented) A method of Claim 8 wherein said nutritional diet comprises more than 0.70% by weight of directly available tyrosine.

13. (previously presented) A method of Claim 9 wherein said nutritional diet comprises more than 0.70% by weight of directly available tyrosine.

14. (previously presented) A method of Claim 10 wherein said nutritional diet comprises more than 0.70% by weight of directly available tyrosine.

15. (previously presented) A method of Claim 11 wherein said nutritional diet comprises more than 0.70% by weight of directly available tyrosine.

16-25. (canceled)

26. (previously presented) A method of Claim 8 wherein said animal comprises a cat less than about 1 year old.

27. (previously presented) A method of Claim 9 wherein said animal comprises an adult cat.

28-32. (canceled)

33. (previously presented) A method of promoting in an animal the synthesis of hair melanin comprising:

feeding an animal selected from the group consisting of a cat and a dog a nutritional diet comprising from about 0.50% by weight to about 3.00% by weight of a bioavailable amino acid tyrosine for promoting in the animal the synthesis of hair melanin.

34-36. (canceled)

37. (previously presented) A method according to claim 5, wherein said directly available tyrosine comprises more than 0.70% by weight of the supplemented consumable.

38. (previously presented) A method according to claim 5, wherein said indirectly available tyrosine comprises more than 0.80% by weight of the supplemented consumable.

39. (previously presented) A method according to claim 37, wherein said indirectly available tyrosine comprises more than 0.80% by weight of the supplemented consumable.

40. (previously presented) A method according to claim 5, wherein said directly available tyrosine comprises more than 0.20% by weight of the supplemented consumable.

41. (previously presented) A method according to claim 5, wherein said directly available tyrosine comprises a bioavailable tyrosine.

42. (previously presented) A method according to claim 41, wherein said bioavailable tyrosine comprises from about 0.50% by weight to about 3.00% by weight of the supplemented consumable.

43. (previously presented) A method according to claim 41, wherein said bioavailable tyrosine comprises from about 1.00% by weight to about 3.00% by weight of the supplemented consumable.

44. (previously presented) A method according to claim 41, wherein said bioavailable tyrosine comprises from about 1.50% by weight to about 3.00% by weight of the supplemented consumable.

45. (previously presented) A method according to claim 41, wherein said bioavailable tyrosine comprises from more than 1.65% by weight to less than 2.40% by weight of the supplemented consumable.

46. (previously presented) A method according to Claim 8 wherein said nutritional diet comprises from about 0.50% by weight to about 3.00% by weight of the amino acid tyrosine.

47. (previously presented) A method according to Claim 8 wherein said nutritional diet comprises from about 1.00% by weight to about 3.00%-by weight of the amino acid tyrosine.

48. (previously presented) A method according to Claim 8 wherein said nutritional diet comprises from about 1.50% by weight to about 3.00% by weight of the amino acid tyrosine.

49. (previously presented) A method according to Claim 33 wherein said nutritional diet comprises from about 1.00% by weight to about 3.00% by weight of the bioavailable tyrosine.

50. (previously presented) A method according to Claim 33 wherein said nutritional diet comprises from about 1.50% by weight to about 3.00% by weight of the bioavailable tyrosine.

51. (previously presented) A method according to Claim 33 wherein said nutritional diet comprises from more than 1.65% by weight to less than 2.40% by weight of the bioavailable tyrosine.

52. (new) A method for supplementing an animal consumable product for maintaining and restoring hair color in an animal, comprising the step of adding an effective amount of a directly available amino acid tyrosine to the animal consumable product to produce a supplemented consumable product.

53. (new) The method of claim 52, wherein said directly available tyrosine comprises at least 0.05% by weight of the supplemented consumable product.

54. (new) The method of claim 52, wherein said directly available tyrosine comprises at least 0.10% by weight of the supplemented consumable product.

55. (new) The method of claim 52, wherein said directly available tyrosine comprises more than 0.70% by weight of the supplemented consumable product.

56. (new) The method of claim 52, wherein said directly available tyrosine comprises more than 0.20% by weight of the supplemented consumable product.

57. (new) The method of claim 52, wherein said directly available tyrosine comprises a bioavailable tyrosine.

58. (new) The method of claim 57, wherein said bioavailable tyrosine comprises from about 0.50% by weight to about 3.00% by weight of the supplemented consumable product.

59. (new) The method of claim 57, wherein said bioavailable tyrosine comprises from about 1.00% by weight to about 3.00% by weight of the supplemented consumable product.

60. (new) The method of claim 57, wherein said bioavailable tyrosine comprises from about 1.50% by weight to about 3.00% by weight of the supplemented consumable product.

61. (new) The method of claim 57, wherein said bioavailable tyrosine comprises from more than 1.65% by weight to less than 2.40% by weight of the supplemented consumable product.

62. (new) The method of claim 52, wherein the animal consumable product is food.

63. (new) The method of claim 52, wherein the animal consumable product is a medicament.

64. (new) The method of claim 52, wherein the animal consumable product is a non-harmful inert support.